

FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

Spring 2015**"CSA" Watermarked Paper**

Confederate States of America paper was made in Great Britain for use in making Confederate States paper money. It was used on the \$5, \$10, \$20, \$50 and \$100 notes. The sheet is 13.5 inches by 16 inches and has 8 water marks (CSA block letters) appear vertically per sheet. Very few sheets are still available. When they come-up for sale they can be obtained for \$200 to \$300 each.

During the Civil War, the Confederate plied a trade route between Wilmington, N.C. and Nassau, Bahamas Islands. They would ship out bales of cotton and bring back much needed ammunition, guns, drugs, paper and other things. The Union government declared a blockade on April 19th, 1861, which just about closed all Confederate ports.

The "Bermuda", a blockade-runner, bringing back supplies from Liverpool, was sighted in the Atlantic Ocean on April 27th, 1862. The U.S. ship "Mercedita" captured the "Bermuda" and it was taken to a Northern port. The "Bermuda" was judged a legal prize of War by the Federal Court, and the cargo was ordered sold.

The Treasury Department bought 5 cases of the banknote paper (e.g. "CSA" watermarked paper). This paper was then used to print the proof notes for the 2nd and 3rd issues of Fractional Currency.

So I've been thinking...has at least one of the CSA letters been seen on all the different 2nd and 3rd issue proof notes? Counting all the narrow and wide margin varieties, there are 93 different proof notes. The water mark is harder to find on the narrow margin proof notes of course, but they still can be found. If you have any notes with at least one CSA water mark letter on it let me know what note it is. I would like to see if indeed there is one example of the watermark on each of the possible proof notes.

Memphis!

This year the FCCB dinner meeting will be held again at the Spaghetti Warehouse, beginning at 7:00pm. However, it hasn't yet been determined if it will be on Thursday or Friday. To accommodate the plans for the most members, call me and let me know which night is best for your schedule. If it doesn't matter, let me know that too. Contact me on my cell phone at 314-809-8275 and let me know which night is best for you. I will then call you back and let you know the final decision.

Enjoy your notes!

Rob

Rob Kravitz



FCCB Newsletter
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POSTAGE CURRENCY USED AS POSTAGE

By

Rick Melamed

A very interesting item has recently been discovered in an online fractional auction: a 5¢ postage currency note that was used instead of a traditional postage stamp (shown below). Only a few examples of this practice are known; they are decidedly rare and go for large premiums over the value of traditional postage notes. One of the chief reasons that they are rare is purely economic: in the 1860's-1870's, it cost 2¢ to mail a first class letter. For someone to use a 5¢ postage note to mail a letter would have been a waste of money.

The newly discovered piece is subject to some analysis. While a postage cancellation would have been positive proof that this example is the real deal, a close examination of the letter indicates that the ink and paper used is consistent for the period. The actual postage note was hand cancelled with a big "X" across Jefferson's portrait.

The postage note and letter are genuine; however, one could question if the fractional was used to mail this specific letter. If deception was employed, why would the person use a Choice CU postage note? Also some aged staining spots that bleed from the postage note to the letter indicate that the note has been affixed to this letter a very long time. This writer believes this example to be genuine.

The description of the auction lot reads as follows:

NOT SURE WHAT TO MAKE OF THIS but it is a genuine Postal Currency 5 cent note adhered to full envelope from the 1870's or so based on the Newcastle Delaware CDS and when this style had been used,..... to New Jersey, Salem County. Everything is 100% genuine except that I am unsure that the note and the cover go together,.....The cancelled note X appears to be the same ink as the addressee ink from that period but will not make any guarantees if they originated for mail.



On the newly discovered example there is a town listed in the postal mark: Newcastle (likely Delaware since it was only 36 miles away; right over the Delaware River). There is a month/date (April 5th), but the year is not shown. A search on the addressee, John Janvier from Daretown, Salem County, New Jersey, indicated that Mr. Janvier lived from 1824-1874 and is buried in the Daretown Presbyterian Church in Daretown, NJ. By the turn of the century there were only 250 residents in the small and rural, unincorporated town; so no doubt this is the same person. Janvier's 2nd son was also named John, but died at age 7. Since first issue postage notes were first printed in 1862 and Mr. Janvier passed away in 1874, we come to the conclusion that the missing year had to be in the range of 1862-1874. See below for a map of Daretown, NJ and Janvier's family history. A picture of gravestone and the church where he is interred is shown as well.



John Whildin Janvier

Birth: Dec. 12, 1824
 Salem County - New Jersey, USA
 Death: Mar. 3, 1874
 Upper Pittsgrove - Salem County, New Jersey, USA

John was from Pittsgrove, NJ; attended Lafayette College in 1840; a man of culture; Trustee of Pres. church and farmer at Pittsgrove, where he died at age 49...Record of the Men of Lafayette, S. Coffin, 1879, pg.171.

Family links:

Spouse: Mary Elizabeth Robeson Janvier (1832 - 1920)

Children:

Henry Archer Janvier (1851 - 1852)
 John Whildin Janvier (1860 - 1867)
 Mary Fries Janvier (1862 - 1947)
 George Washington Janvier (1870 - 1870)

Burial:

Pittsgrove Presbyterian Church Cemetery
 Daretown, Salem County, New Jersey, USA



OTHER KNOWN EXAMPLES OF POSTAGE NOTES USED TO MAIL LETTERS

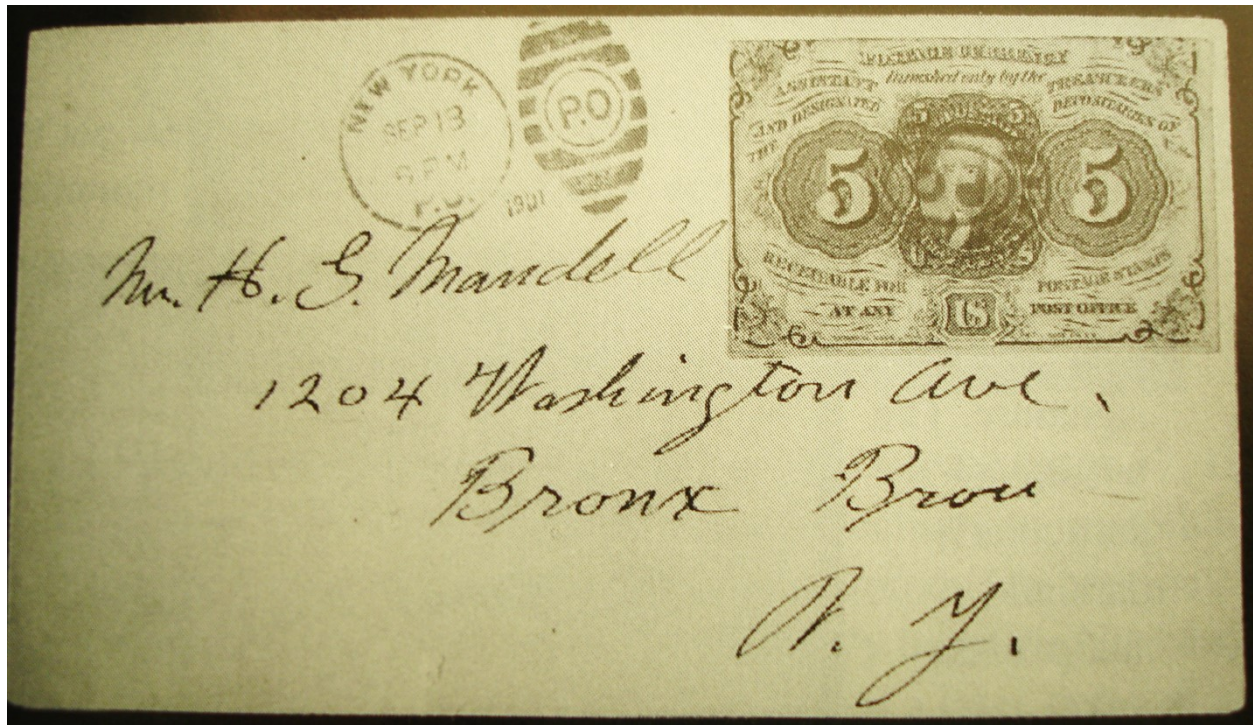
These are decidedly rare; there are no examples from the Ford sales, but from the CAA (Currency Auctions of America) Milt Friedberg sale in January 1997, three similar examples were sold.



Lot 96. Postage Currency used as Postage. A 5¢ Fr.1230 (Milton 1R5.4) mounted to the upper left of an envelope and postmarked "New York September 20 9PM 1901." The identical postmark appears at the right of the envelope. *One of the very few known indisputably genuine uses of postage currency as postage (750-UP). Purchased by Milt from Fractional Currency Inc in 1994 at the Memphis show. Sold for \$770.* This same example sold twice more both at exactly \$2,300. At the Tom O'Mara HA sale in September 2005 and from the Peter Gamble Sale by HA in January 2008.



Lot 97. Postally Used Fractional Currency. A 10¢ First Issue note was used as a stamp to mail this George Washington bicentennial cover. It was sent from Mount Vernon, Virginia on February 22, 1932 (the 200th anniversary of George Washington's birth), to Fred Wm. Bernet in Newark, New Jersey. There are very few known examples of First Issue Fractional Currency having been used as postage, and this is the latest date example we have seen. It's tied to the cover by both the postmark and the special Washington's bicentennial cancel. The envelope has contents but remains sealed. (500-up). Formerly Lot 243 from NASCA's April 19, 1982 sale. Sold for \$1,155.



Lot 98. Postally Used Fractional Currency. A 5¢ First issue note has been used as a stamp to mail a letter which is postmarked September 18, 1901. Although not specifically authorized for use as postage, First issue notes occasionally, although rarely, were pressed into service as stamps. This five cent note on its plain cover appears to have been used as postage rather than a gimmick, souvenir or hobby stunt. (500-up). From Abe Kosoff's 1971 sale of the Julian Marks Collection. Sold for \$577.50.

From the Heritage September 2008 Long Beach Auction:

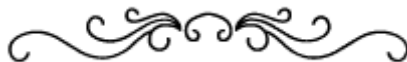


Lot 13034, First Issue 50¢ Note Used as Postage. The stamped portion of the First Issue 50¢ note was clipped and used as postage on a large envelope. Although the date is not legible, the postmark of Cincinnati, OH is clear, and the postmark ties the strip to the cover. This is only the third instance that we have seen where postage currency was actually used as postage. This great item popped up in a recent stamp auction where our consignor obtained it for over \$1400.

Although the date is uncertain, it was most likely mailed in the 1890s, as it was sent to a Lieutenant H. H. Bandholtz, a member of the 6th U.S. Infantry in Fort Thomas, Newport, KY. The 6th infantry was based at Ft. Thomas from the early 1890s until the outbreak of the Spanish-American war in 1898. Bandholtz, the recipient of this letter, went on to become a Major General in WWI. He was also called on by President Harding to quell unrest in McDowell County, West Virginia during the "Miner's Rebellion" in 1920. Anyone desiring to see a statue of H. H. Bandholtz need look no further than the front lawn of the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, Hungary. Only the front of the envelope is present, but the postage currency strip and the addressee's information is fully present and crystal clear. Sold for \$1,955.

These are certainly interesting items and are a strong connection between postage notes and postage stamps. They deserve a place in any well rounded fractional collection. Other potential examples may have been lost when the recipient of the letter tossed the envelope (with the postage note used as currency), since the letter's contents were often more important.

I must give special thanks to my son David for his continued help in editing my research. Also to Heritage for their fabulous auction archives, which are a treasure trove of great and useful information and makes researching easier with accessible and reliable information.

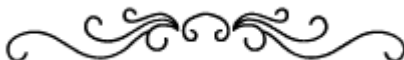


Important Reminder....

FCCB membership annual dues of \$15 are due if the mailing label for your newsletter indicates your dues were paid through 2014. Be sure to make your check out to F.C.C.B. and mail it along with your name to our Treasurer:

David Treter
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Fr. 1296 25¢ Third Issue
PMG Choice Uncirculated 64 EPQ
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Realized \$5,170



Fr. 1281 25¢ First Issue Full Sheet of 16 PMG Superb Gem Unc 67 EPQ
HA.com/3531*19154
Realized \$14,100



Fr. 1242 10¢ First Issue Full Sheet of 20 PCGS Gem New 65PPQ
HA.com/3531*19148
Realized \$9,987



Fr. 1338 50¢ Third Issue Spinner
PMG Superb Gem Unc 67 EPQ
HA.com/3531*19256
Realized \$8,225

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I attend many of the major shows and auctions to satisfy my customer's collecting needs.

The following is a small sampling of some prize notes that I have placed into customer's collections:

Marchioni Fr. 1248 Choice CU

Fr. 1299 Very Choice CU

Gengerke Fr. 1330 Gem CU

Fr. 1336 Choice CU

O'Mara Fr. 1339 NM Specimen Reverse AU

Fr. 1340 Superb Gem CU

Fr. 1348 Choice CU

Fr. 1368 Gem CU

O'Mara Fr. 1371 Choice AU

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The Crawford "K-20" Engraving Error

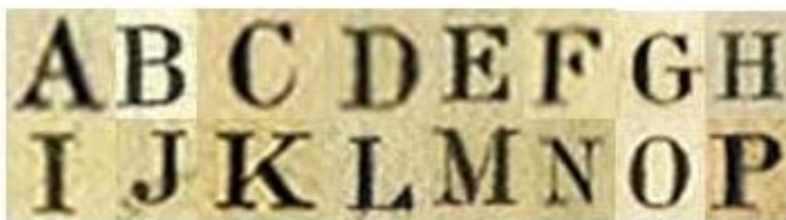
By

Rick Melamed

(Editor's Note: This is the second part of a multi-part series by the author. This article was also printed in the March/April 2015 issue of Paper Money.)

Crawford Sheet Position Letters and Plate Numbers

There were 27 sheet plates used for the series. For example, every sheet of Crawfords for plate #1 has (16) #1's on the right end of the note and the (16) sequential letters used to designate the position on the sheet (A-P) just right of the vignette. The net result is 432 variations (16 x 27) of the Crawford fractional from 'A-1' to 'P-27'.



Crawford Sheet Position Letters A-P



Crawford Plate Numbers 1-27

See below for plate designation positioning:



A	1	1	d
B	1	1	O
C	1	1	N
D	1	1	W
E	1	1	1
F	1	1	K
G	1	1	I
H	1	1	I

The specific note position on an uncut sheet was designated with a letter (A-P). An uncut sheet of obverse Crawford's would be laid out as indicated by the grid shown on the left:

Shown below is a 'virtual' reconstructed sheet of Crawford obverses. This sheet does not exist, but with the magic of digital photography, we can now show how an uncut sheet would have appeared.



(To be continued in our next issue...)



Member's Trading Post

Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Digital Collection Effort.

Jerry Fochtman
jerry@fochtman.us

Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail riconio@yahoo.com or call 818/591-2326.
Thanks – Rick Melamed.

Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience

Mike Marchioni
Marchion@ETSU.EDU
423/439-5362

Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for the Trading Post!

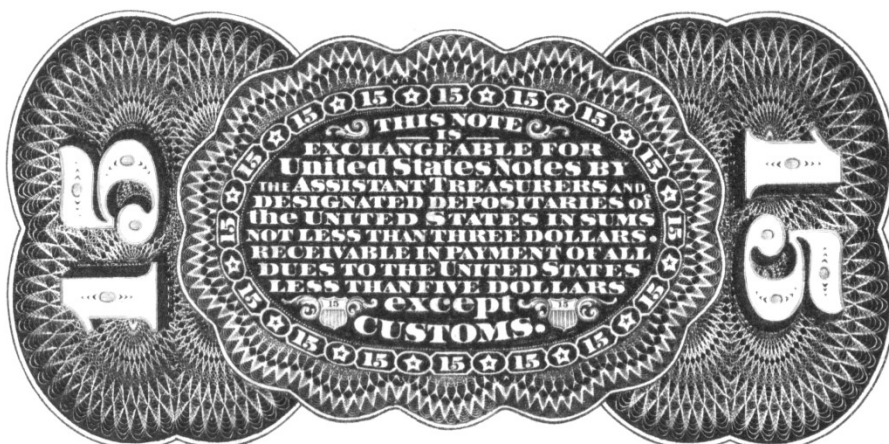
See Ya in Memp



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FR1245 – COMMON NOTE WITH DECEPTIVE INTENT

By

Rick Melamed

Here is an ordinary looking 2nd issue 10¢ fractional (Fr.1245) except this example has a 5 digit number printed on the back. In red fonts on the upper right reverse is “50286”. This is from eBay and the seller has it designated as a “control number”, but that’s a rather vague term.



It’s been unsold on eBay for a while (the \$1,495 asking price seems steep without establishing a raison d’être).



This is something I’ve never seen before, though FCCB President Rob Kravitz has indicated that he’s seen at least 3 similar examples with 5 digit numbers like this in the past. The control number is definitely printed over the green design of the note. The seller of the note claims that the bronze surcharge is printed over the red control number, but one has to be dubious about that claim. For if that were true, then the red control number is something that was printed in the Treasury. A blow up of the upper right corner is inconclusive.

The conclusion among several fractional experts is that the “control number” was added after the note was released by the Treasury. Most likely to fool unsuspecting collectors in thinking a common note was something special. It is not. Caveat Emptor...let the buyer beware.

